

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON BERLINGUER VISIT

REF: ROME 11473

FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE OF DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN AUGUST 11 (QUESTIONS DID NOT ARISE):

Q: IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE STORY THAT ZYGMUNT NAGORSKI
OF THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS ARRANGED ON BEHALF
OF THE US GOVERNMENT FOR ENRICO BERLINGUER, SECRETARY OF
THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, TO VISIT THE US THIS FALL?

A: NO. MR. NAGORSKI HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT, NOR DOES HE CLAIM TO HAVE. WE HAVE NO
KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS INVITED BERLINGUER.

Q: HAS BERLINGUER APPLIED FOR A VISA?
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A: NO

Q: WOULD YOU ISSUE A VISA TO BERLINGUER IF HE WERE
INVITED TO COME BY A PRIVATE PARTY?

A: THAT IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION THAT WOULD BE
ANSWERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INVITATION. BUT I WOULD
NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO THINK THAT WE WOULD.

Q: HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CHANGED ITS POLICY
ON VISA ISSUANCE TO COMMUNIST OFFICIALS FROM ITALY OR
OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES?

A: NO. SUCH PERSONS REMAIN INELIGIBLE FOR A US VISA
UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.
AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE LAW PERMITS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TO WAIVE THE INELIGIBILITY IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. DECISIONS
ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND A WAIVER FOR ANY FOREIGN MEMBER
OF A COMMUNIST PARTY ARE MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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